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APR 06 2004

Office of the Director
Group 3f60

In re application of

Douglas G. Nelson

Application No. 10/684,316

Filed: October 11, 2003

For: ANTI-HIJACKING SYSTEM OPERABLE IN EMERGENCIES
TO DEACTIVATE ON-BOARD FLIGHT CONTROLS AND
REMOTELY PILOT AIRCRAFT UTILIZING AUTOPILOT

: **DECISION ON PETITION**
: **TO MAKE SPECIAL**
: **(COUNTER TERRORISM)**

This is in response to the petition filed on October 11, 2003 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 XI. The delay in deciding this petition is regretted.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); and (B) a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

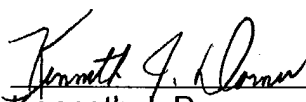
Applicant's petition explains that "in response to the on-board activation of a panic button by a flight crew in case of a commercial airline hijacking, on-board flight control by persons on the aircraft is deactivated. Instead, the aircraft is remotely piloted to a secure landing strip, or the aircraft automatically lands itself in accordance with pre-programmed criteria." This is an acceptable explanation of how the invention would act to counter terrorism, in particular the hijacking of an aircraft.

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt **bona fide** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

SUMMARY: Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth J. Dorner", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth J. Dorner
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 3600
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KJD/mjz: 3/30/04